

STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT

Clarke Press Release

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CLARKE WELCOMES GOVERNOR'S SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO RESTRICT CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES

(LANSING, MI) State Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) welcomed Governor Granholm's support today for a package of bills that would prohibit the sale of violent, mature-rated video games to underage children. Governor Granholm applauded Sen. Clarke's proposal in last night's State-of-the-State address and encouraged its adoption.

"We have a moral responsibility to protect our children from inappropriate, adult-rated video games," said Sen. Clarke. "I'm pleased that the Governor agrees that the video gaming industry has a responsibility to behave ethically and to not promote products to children that adversely impact our families."

Senator Clarke's legislation is directed at video games like the *Grand Theft Auto* series in which gamers carjack automobiles, kill police officers and innocent bystanders, and solicit prostitutes. In the games, players are offered a wide range of weapons with which to wreck havoc on the community, including baseball bats, chain saws, grenade launchers, and sniper rifles.

"It's no secret that underage teens make up a huge part of the market for violent video games like *Grand Theft Auto*," said Sen. Clarke. "My legislation seeks to protect our communities from the

adverse affects of exposing an entire generation of children to unnecessarily violent and anti-social video games.”

Senator Clarke is drafting a bill package which would establish a state minimum age for buying or renting adult-rated video games- similar to the current age limit on the purchasing of tobacco or alcohol. The Senator’s bill package will also include legislation that will establish criminal penalties for retailers who knowingly sell mature-rated games to underage children.

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